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SUBJECT: UNSC: QATAR AND INDONESIA DROP GAZA PRST

¶1. (SBU) Qatar and Indonesia formally abandoned July 30 an effort to push a UNSC Presidential Statement expressing concern about the humanitarian situation in Gaza, including a call to open the border crossings, after USUN advised the Council we would not be able to support the statement. USUN noted that the Council had not condemned the violent takeover of the Gaza strip by Hamas in June and that the Palestinians and Israelis did not support the effort. Notwithstanding their role in the Quartet, the Russians had expressed support for the statement. Other Council members, citing the views of UN SYG Ban and UNSCO Michael Williams calling for the border crossings to be open to ameliorate the economic and humanitarian crisis, also had supported the statement. Throughout discussions of the matter, the Palestinian representative, Riyadh Mansour, maintained unyielding opposition to the Qatari and Indonesian initiative, stating Palestinian "sovereignty" had been affronted because Qatar had not consulted with the Palestinian delegation. The open rift between the two Arab delegations on an issue involving Palestinian matters, which reflects policy differences over Hamas, is extraordinary in the Security Council.

¶2. (SBU) Below is the draft of the text that had been proposed by Qatar and Indonesia. The two delegations had earlier dropped any reference to the government of Israel, feeding Palestinian suspicions that Qatar was seeking to embarrass the Palestinian Authority government.

Draft PRST on the Middle East follows:

The Members of the Security Council express their deep concern for the deteriorating humanitarian and economic situation in Gaza and its dire effect on the Palestinian population in Gaza.

The Members of the Security Council also express their concern for the situation of the Palestinians stranded outside the Rafah border crossing and call for an expedient solution to ensure their urgent and safe return to Gaza.

The Members of the Security Council call on all parties to ensure unhindered access for humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people in Gaza to alleviate the situation and to open the border crossings into Gaza to facilitate the passage of imports and exports and the access of humanitarian workers to Gaza. The Members of the Security Council stress the importance of the maintenance of a continuous and uninterrupted supply of fuel, electricity and water to Gaza.

The Members of the Security Council call on the international community to continue to provide emergency and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people in Gaza to meet their dire humanitarian needs.

End Text.

KHALILZAD